



COLLEGE GARDENS PARK/POND/STREAM PROJECT UPDATE AUGUST 14, 2008

The City of Rockville Department of Public Works has advertised the College Gardens Park bid for construction of park facilities, pond expansion and related stream restoration. The new pond will provide modern stormwater management for the 78-acre drainage area of offices, townhouses and single-family homes. Park amenities are also being upgraded and replaced through this project.

Because the City has obtained a grant for the stormwater pond and stream restoration from Maryland Department of the Environment, the State grant administrator must approve the successful contractor's proposal. The expected schedule below is subject to change due to State grant processing:

September 16	Bid Opening
October 6	Mayor and Council Award
Late November	Construction Starts
June 1, 2009	Construction Completed

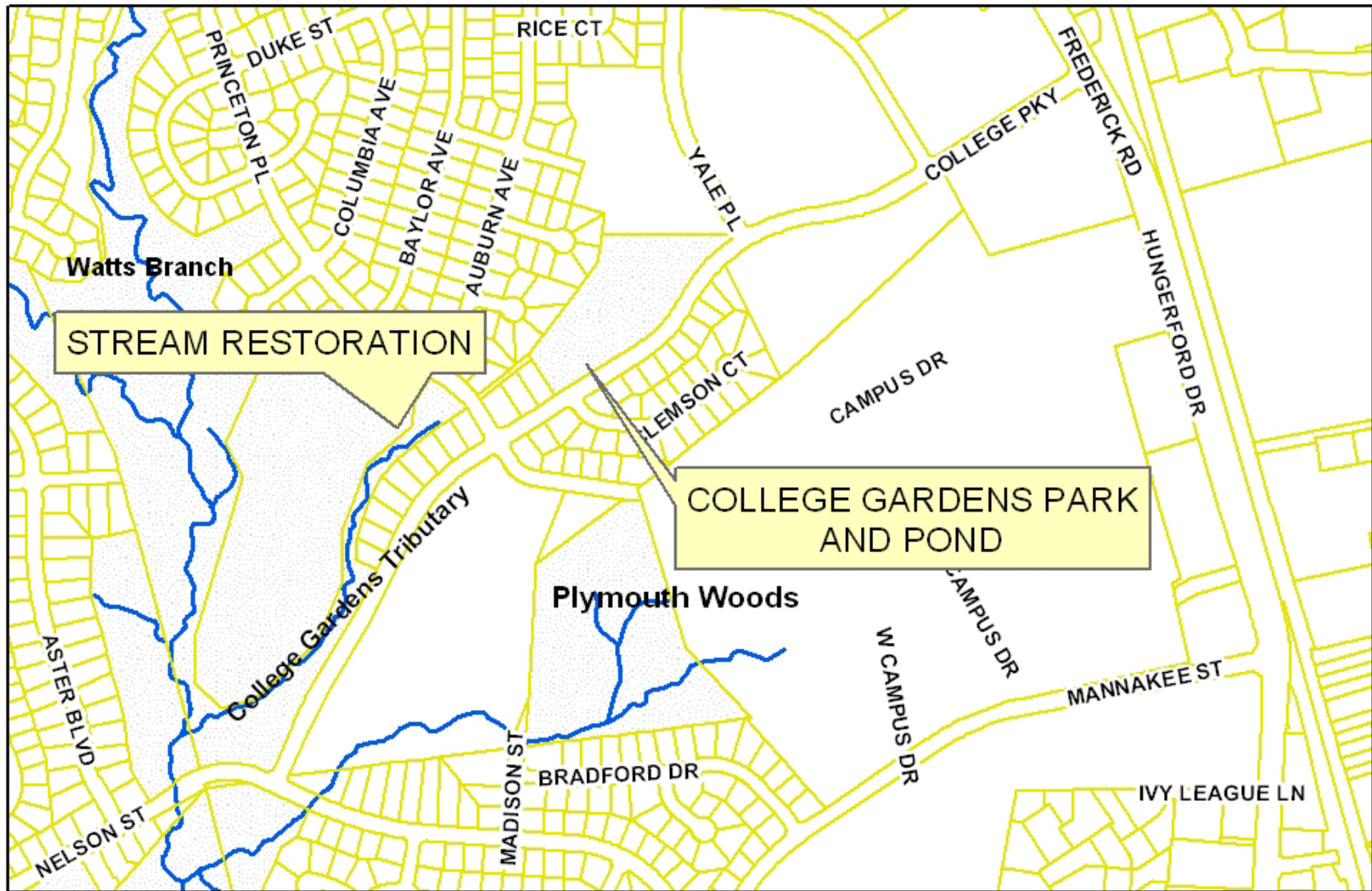
Before construction begins, the contractor will install a chain link fence around the park's construction area and will post detour signs for pedestrians, who will be directed along College Parkway around the construction zone. The chain link fence will have an entrance gate at College Parkway that will be locked during nights and weekends. At the beginning and end of the school day, the contractor will post flagmen at the entrance to protect children from construction traffic. Construction will not start before 7 a.m. on weekdays and will be subject to Montgomery County's Noise Ordinance, which limits construction noise to certain hours. After tree protection and sediment control measures are installed, the contractor will drain the pond and begin excavating the expanded pond basin. During the first six weeks of construction, the new playground will be closed due to close proximity of the work. The playground is expected to remain open for the remainder of the project.

Stream restoration will proceed concurrently with the pond construction. The stream work will be finished by February 28, 2009. The park shelters, basketball court, plaza area, paths and other park amenities will be built last, after the pond and the underground pipes are completed. Pond and park construction will be substantially completed by June 1, 2009, although some landscaping may be deferred until the cooler fall planting season. 31 trees less than 12" in diameter and 33 trees over 12" in diameter are slated to be removed in the park. Trees in or directly adjacent to construction may be in the way of the new features, and construction impacts cause root damage even if the tree itself is not in the construction zone. Trees in poor condition will be removed in cases where the tree has heavily exposed roots, damage or disease, or pose post-construction safety concerns.

New landscaping will add 122 trees (almost twice the number being removed), 167 shrubs and 1,600 perennial plants to the park, as well as plants along the stream valley and in the pond's wetland fringe. College Gardens Park will be fully landscaped with plants native to the Mid-Atlantic area after the construction is completed.

As proposed in the park concept, several amenities are listed in the bid as add alternatives, which means that they will be built if the park improvements budget allows. After discussion at the College Gardens Civic Association annual meeting in June, community members indicated that their first priority was the new basketball court located on the existing softball infield area. The other add alternatives were prioritized in the following order: the overlook deck at the playground end of the pond, an additional shelter (a roofed structure) for the interpretive deck at the ballfield end of the pond, and concrete pads under the proposed picnic tables. A decision on the alternatives will be made before the Mayor and Council award.

Residents are invited to follow construction updates that will be mentioned in Rockville Reports, distributed through the College Gardens Civic Association and Plymouth Woods Homeowners Association, and posted on the City's website at www.rockvillemd.gov. For further information, please contact Lise Soukup of Rockville Department of Public Works at (240) 314-8515 or via email at Lsoukup@rockvillemd.gov.



Vicinity Map of College Gardens Park, Pond and Stream Restoration

Legend

- Property Lines
- Streams
- City Park

